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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Smart Libraries

The Smart Libraries project, **http://www.valleylibrary.ca**, has moved into its next phase - content and sustainability.

Although development of the site with new services and features is continuing, staff are working on sustainability. This move is critical for the long term life of the site.

Through workshops held at the Canadian Library Association Conference, LBANS/NSLA, and the Community Access Conference in conjunction with WCRL, other Regional Libraries have shown an interest in the site and have been invited to attend an in-depth demonstration. The web developer will assist in demonstrating the administrative features of the site as well as how this product could be used by other Regional Libraries. Through the FundyWeb, Nova Scotia's Smart Community projects are to be replicable, community based, and sustainable.

Schools within AVRL have been encouraging their students to use the site resources at school and at home. Requests for handouts and instruction sheets have been received from community college campuses and high schools.

As a result of the site, library patrons find they are borrowing more books. They can renew books online and place holds, which allows the library user to have more control of their account. Comments such as "we look forward to the lists of new books, its nice to see the covers" are received from both library users and Branch staff.

AVRL has applied for LibraryNet funding through Industry Canada for the Smart Communities project. One aspect of the project will involve working with groups of teens to help enhance the site. The second part of the project will have one or two classes of elementary aged children use the site as part of their classroom activities.

Community Access Program (CAP)

Eight out of 11 AVRL Branches offer computer tutorials and some children's programming funded through CAP. These

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programs have proved to be so popular that several of the Branches are fully booked within the first week of each month. This funding will continue until mid-May, 2003.

Branch News

Fall programming is under way!

Wolfville Memorial Library is hosting a series of children's programs throughout the Fall. *Breakfast Serials* takes place on Saturday mornings for ages five to eight and involves reading, science experiments, crafty creations, and much more. The popular *Tiny Tales Storytime* is back for ages three to five on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For adults, author John Stiles gave a reading in October, which was sponsored by Insomniac Press. Another reading was scheduled for November 25 with author Pat Lotz, sponsored by Gaspereau Press.

At the Windsor Library, on October 29 Dr. Brad Kelln, author, clinical and forensic psychologist, and special consultant to the Halifax Regional Police, was the guest. Dr. Kelln's second crime novel , *Method of Madness*, set in Halifax, was published in October. Approximately 25 people attended this presentation, which was sponsored by publisher Insomniac Press., Windsor Library continues to host *Fun and Fables* for preschoolers on Friday mornings in the children's department.

At the Frank E. Morse Memorial Library in Lawrencetown, and at the Middleton Library, a fall series of adult programs have been offered. Local veterinarian Dr. Natasha Cairns presented a family program on pet care; Darlene DenHaan of DenHaan Enterprises was guest speaker on the subject of fall gardening; local lawyer Ron Richter offered a presentation on will preparation; Charlotte Janes promoted AVRL's online website; and children's librarian Katherine Forrestall hosted the *Baby's First Books* program for new and expectant parents and their babies. Adult programming is a new venture for these Branches and was reflected in a lower than anticipated attendance for most of these events. In contrast the more established children's craft and story times at Lawrencetown and Middleton Branches were well attended.

Other library offerings included pumpkin painting at the Berwick Library, *Circle of Readers Book Club* at the Kentville Branch, various computer-related programs for children, and one-on-one computer tutorials for all ages.

AVRL's bookmobiles or mobile branches serve a total of 151 community stops, 35 schools, 23 senior and special care facilities, and 18 day cares/nursery schools.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Web Page

CBRL launched its new web page **www.cbrl.ca** during Public Library Week on Friday, October 25, 2002. The Library was fortunate to secure the services of Wanda Cummings of Creative Design Solutions in Sydney who did a fantastic job of re-designing the web page. Wanda is a great "friend of the library". She sees the library as providing an essential service, and felt it a service to the community to assist CBRL by providing her expertise and creativity to the new web site.

The University College of Cape Breton Youth Drama Group, under the direction of Brian Gallivan, took part in the Public Library Week/Web Page Launch by providing the entertainment with an excerpt from the *Hobgoblin & the Skeleton*.

CBRL Board Members Brian MacDonald and Bonnie MacDonald were on hand for the launch of the new web page.

On hand for the launch was Wendy Bergfeldt, the host of Cape Breton's local suppertime CBC program *Mainstreet*, shown here on the left, interviewing CBRL's Rosalie Gillis.

Book Sale

CBRL's Book sale began on Thursday, November 14, 2002, and continued until closing on Saturday, November 16, 2002. Some local school boards took advantage of the great deals available and purchased sets of encyclopaedias and

other reference materials at great prices. The book sale is a major fund raiser for CBRL, and as in the past there was a line-up as the sale started on Thursday.

The program room at the McConnell Library just hours before the book sale.

Red Cross

CBRL staff members attended a Red Cross Emergency/First Aid In-service held on Monday, November 4, 2002. All who attended the course were successful in receiving their certificates, and are now trained to respond to an emergency situation should one arise. This certification lasts for three years, at which time it must be renewed.

CBRL staff at the Red Cross Emergency/First Aid in-service.

Preschool

CBRL loves Halloween, especially when the kids enrolled in Preschool come to the Library dressed as ghosts, pumpkins and their favourite Harry Potter character! CBRL's Preschool Program is directed at children aged three - five and runs for four consecutive weeks except for December when it runs for two weeks.

CBRL's Bev McGee, shown seated on the left, prepares name tags for the Preschool Program's Halloween event.

Plays Collection Web Site

The newest local content site developed by CBRL was launched during Public Library Week. The *Plays Web Site* was developed to make it easier to search the large collection of plays available at the McConnell Library in Sydney. The *Plays Web Site* now allows patrons to search online for any of the more than 3000 plays available by author, title, audience type or number of characters. Previously, the only way to use the *Plays Collection* was to visit the McConnell Library and then search through the plays manually. The site can be viewed at **www.cbrl.ca/search/plays.html**. This project was made possible with the help of Industry Canada's LibraryNet project.

Donation of Autism Collection

CBRL was delighted to receive a collection of new books and videos from the local group SSENSE Cape Breton Connection. SSENSE, which stands for Safe Structured ENvironment for Sensory Experience, is a group of parents and health professionals caring for children with autism. The collection, valued at more than $1200, contains recent books and videos, which help parents and health professionals find the information they need to help children with autism. SSENSE recognized the Regional Library system as the most efficient way to circulate these resources. The materials were purchased with the financial assistance of the IWK External Fund and the Community Health Promotion Fund.

Newest Staff Member

The newest librarian to join the staff of CBRL is Karen MacNeil. Karen graduated from the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University in the spring of 2002 and began work at CBRL in mid-August. Prior to and during her time at Dalhousie, Karen worked at AVRL's Windsor Branch. Karen has taken over responsibility for the Victoria County Libraries. A former resident of Cape Breton, she has returned after living the past number of years in the Rawdon Hills. Karen and her husband are now living in Hillside, Mira. To quote Karen, "All Cape Bretoners come back eventually."

Librarian Karen MacNeil, CBRL's newest staff member.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Public Library Week

"What are you doing there?" asked the surprised graduate and public library patron when he saw Dr. Garth Coffin (Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College) working behind the circulation desk in CEHRL's Truro Branch. Public Library Week in CEHRL saw 41 *Celebrity Librarians* greet the public, talk with staff, and tour library facilities. Depending on the time and location of the visit, patrons might have been greeted by the Mayor or Warden, had their book stamped by their MLA, police chief or fire chief, or had a chance to chat with their representative on the Library Board, the editor of the local newspaper, or perhaps the director of the regional development agency, the president of a local service club or bank manager! These and other local dignitaries took time out of their busy schedules to help CEHRL celebrate public libraries!

CEHRL's Janet MacLellan helps *Celebrity Librarian* Bill Ireland, Supervisor of Truro Fire Service, during Public Library Week.

Celebrity Librarian **Dr. Garth Coffin, Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, in action at the Truro Library during Public Library Week.**

Dr. Garth Coffin (left) and Mayor Mike Smith, Municipality of the Colchester County, hard at work as *Celebrity Librarians* at the Truro Library.

Family Literacy

On October 21, Michelle Bowden joined CEHRL to coordinate the 10-month research project, *Family Literacy in Nova Scotia: a Strategic Approach*, funded by the National Literacy Secretariat. To date Michelle has made considerable progress in her research on family literacy programs across Canada and beyond. Michelle reports that she is finding considerable interest in the project, with enquiries from around the province from people who want to contribute information and to learn from the project's findings. The first meeting of the Advisory Working Group will be held at the Library in Truro, December 6.

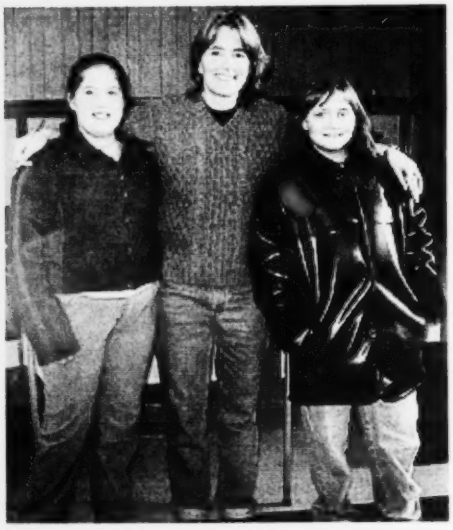
Truro's Santa Claus Parade

CEHRL was primed and ready to take part in Truro's annual Santa Claus Parade! Then on November 24 came the high winds and CEHRL was forced to retire from the field. The Library's six member library book cart precision drill team had rehearsed and was ready to "strut its stuff". The 15-member support crew, drawn from the library's board, staff, and teen friends, had decorated the book carts, looked after the music and costumes, and were ready to carry the library banner, give out mini candy canes to the young and young at heart, drive the van with music playing, take the photos, arrange the after-parade hot chocolate and cookies, and cheer everyone on. It was not to be, but well done everyone! The idea for a precision drill team came from the book,

The Library Book Cart Precision Drill Team Manual **by Linda D. McCracken and Lynne Zeiher.**

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

CURL was fortunate to enjoy readings with author Deborah Ellis for Children's Book Week on November 5. Deborah won the Governor General's Award for Children's Fiction in 1999 and was nominated again this year for *Parvana's Journey*. Enthusiastic audiences in Amherst and Springhill were treated to readings from her newest book *A Company of Fools*, as well as a discussion of *Parvana' s Journey* and *The Breadwinner*.



Author Deborah Ellis with two young fans at the Springhill Library.

Halloween programs were the focus throughout October with Halloween parties, and stories and craft workshops. The Springhill Library Halloween party was almost a little too successful with 54 kids and 19 adults dressed in full costume in attendance. The highlight of the party was a magic show, which was enjoyed by young and old alike.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

Phillip MacKinnon was the big winner recently in the age seven to nine category of the Summer Reading Program's (SRP) province-wide draw for a *Bag of Books*, courtesy of Tattletales Books Ltd., Dartmouth. Phillip participated in the SRP at the Dr. Coady & Tompkins Memorial Library in Margaree Forks. Over 400 children read a total of 5,452 books in the SRP, held at Branches and Libr@ry Links sites throughout the counties of Inverness, Richmond, and Guysborough.

Anne LeBlanc (right), Library Assistant at Drs. Coady & Thompkins Memorial Library, presents Phillip MacKinnon with his prize of a *Bag of Books*, donated by Tattletales Books Ltd., Dartmouth.

On October 22, ECRL launched its new Virtual library web catalogue at the Mulgrave Professional Centre. Representatives from Municipalities, NSPL, Regional Libraries, and the community were present to hear guest speaker Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture. During the launch, Minister MacDonald placed the first official online book request on the new system. " This online catalogue is an exciting milestone for the Region" said MacDonald. "Round the clock access to library resources throughout the province is very valuable". The Web Catalogue handbook was developed by Library Assistants Annemarie Bieber of the Guysborough Branch and Lesley Brothers from the Sherbrooke Branch.

Trish McCormick, Technical Services Librarian, gives a helping hand to Minister Rodney MacDonald as he requests a book online at the Launch of ECRL's new service.

Community support was evident at the rollout of the *Share a Book- Build a Community 2002* campaign held in Mulgrave on October 22. The six week campaign, designed to raise funds to improve and enhance the ECRL collection, was kicked off with a presentation by Lori MacLean, spokesperson with EnCana. The initial cheque for the amount of $3,000 was presented to ECRL Board Chair Joe Walsh, with a promise to match up to $2,000 of the public's donations. Ms. MacLean pointed out that EnCana community investment funds are targeted towards supporting this type of fund-raising effort, which focuses on education, literacy, and youth.

Joe Walsh, ECRL Chair, receives the initial cheque from EnCana spokesperson, Lori MacLean (right), and Jenn Murray, EnCana Communications Assistant.

As a result of the preview of the *Share a Book* campaign in early September at the *Libraries and Literacy Lunch 'n Learn*, an early donation was received even before the campaign's official start. Richmond County Literacy Network presented ECRL with a cheque for $500.00 as the first public donation to the campaign. Acknowledgment of the contribution was given at the rollout ceremony on October 22.

Shirley McNamara, (center) Chair of Richmond County Literacy Network, and Millie Hatt, Executive Director of the Richmond County Literacy Network present Councillor Art Carter, Board Treasurer, with a facsimile of their donation.

The campaign also garnered the attention of Bob MacEachern, Owner-Operator of 101.5 The Hawk, whose staff are providing daily radio announcements to residents of the three counties served by ECRL. Mr. MacEachern also offered his expertise as the Master of Ceremonies at the Oct. 22 launch of the Virtual Library and kick off of the *Share a Book- Build a Community* campaign.

Dave Cumby, ECRL's Acting CEO, (left) and Bob MacEachern have a look at the *Share a Book-Build a Community* promotional poster, which was distributed throughout the three counties.

Also on October 22, Board Chair Joe Walsh presented long-time ECRL staff with service awards of 20 years to Ann Campbell, Port Hawkesbury Branch; Cheryl Chiavari and Kathy MacInnis, Headquarters. A 25 year award was given to Aurea Gillis, currently with the Libr@ry Links service. Aurea has also served borrowers at the Margaree Forks Branch and on the bookmobile. Acting CEO, Dave Cumby, gave a special tribute to each staff member saying that he has long been "aware of the important role that experienced and dedicated staff members play, in fulfilling our mandate to provide high quality public library services".

Left to right, Cheryl Chiavari, Kathy MacInnis, Aurea Gillis and Ann Campbell received plaques and a small token of appreciation for their years of service with ECRL.

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

IT Skills Project A Huge Success

HRL's IT Skills project, made possible through a grant from Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC), allowed HRL to develop 10 introductory computer skills modules, which were then made available to the public through all 14 Library Branches. Two staff, hired to develop and then implement the modules, were also responsible for training library employees. In this way, HRL will ensure being able to provide introductory IT workshops in the future.

A total of 175 programs were offered throughout the system, covering everything from Hands-On Computer Basics to Advanced E-Mail. The popular workshops attracted 1375 people, most of whom were young seniors or job seekers looking to either become more familiar with increasingly changing technology, or to gain help with job searches. HRL received an incredible response to these programs. The responses included people who said they didn't know the library was "more than just books", that they now were confident enough to buy their own computers, and that after 40 years of working, were happy to finally be up to snuff with the technology they missed out on while on the job.

HRL's recent IT Skills Project, which began in March of this year, and wrapped up in October, was a resounding success, with large overall attendance and very positive public feedback. HRL's IT logo is shown here.

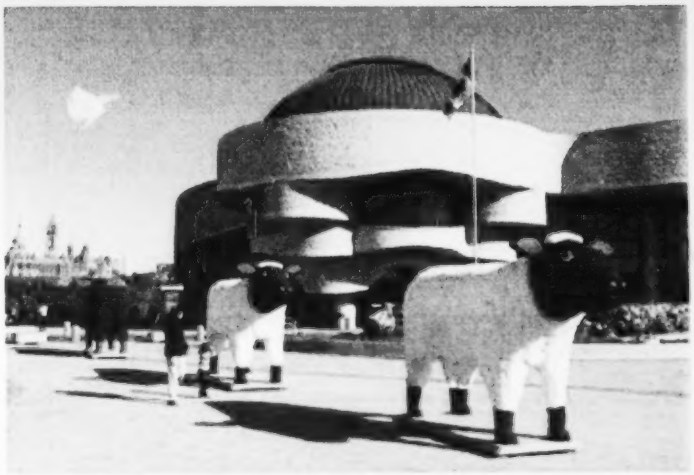
Self-Check Now at Alderney Gate and Cole Harbour

HRL's self-check machines, very popular at both the Keshen and Tantallon Libraries, are now available at two more Branches. Library Branches at Alderney Gate and Cole Harbour are now equipped with one machine each, with staff reporting an extremely enthusiastic response from the public.

HRL's easy-to-use self-checks are just one more way HRL is working to improve service to an increasingly busy public. Library employee Bet Taylor lends a hand to patron Michael Redmond.

Keshen Goodman Hosts "Sheepish" Visitor

"Wooly" the sheep will soon be arriving at the Keshen Goodman Library. On loan to the Library through the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS), "Wooly", who stands eight and a half feet tall, and weighs a whopping 800 pounds, is part of a travelling exhibit of outdoor folk art from the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec.



"Wooly" the sheep will call the Keshen Goodman Library home for the month of December.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

On Friday, November 15, PARL's Community Services Librarian, Linda Arsenault and Community Outreach Assistant, Steven MacLean gave a presentation to a class of fourth year students with the School of Library and Information Studies Program at Dalhousie University. The students were part of the Users and Services class, and the hour long talk provided them with practical examples of community outreach and programming. The presentation was well received by both students and attending professor Dr. Norman Horrocks.

In late October, PARL held a regional meeting with the Branch staff who deliver story time programs for pre-schoolers. The purpose of the gathering was to give staff the opportunity to share ideas and methods of craft skills, which are typically used to support this type of programming. Under the direction of PARL's Karen McNeil, the group made good use of the opportunity, with each taking new inspiration back to their respective Branches.

Once again PARL took part in the annual Canadian Children's Book Week author tour. This year, Nova Scotia was fortunate to have Governor General award winning author Deborah Ellis visit schools and libraries. As author of the national best sellers, *The Breadwinner* and *Parvana's Journey*, Deborah proved to be a popular presenter. At one school, Deborah kept the attention of 160 grade five and six students for over an hour as she gave them a history lesson on war-torn Afghanistan, the setting of her last two books.

Young adult author Deborah Ellis, shown seated, in the West Pictou Consolidated School Library with a few of her fans.

To coincide with National Child's Day, PARL held a ceremony to recognize nine local supporters of the *Adopt A Library Literacy Program*. Resplendent in his red surge, Constable John Kennedy handed out plaques of appreciation to individuals and companies who have helped the program attain $1,000,000 in donations and in-kind support. Invited to help mark the occasion were the grade two students of Ms.Betty Dunbar and Mrs. Cathy Murphy, of Dr. W. A. MacLeod Elementary School. On hand to offer words of thanks to Constable Kennedy for the work he has done on behalf of children's literature were PARL Library Board members Allister MacDonald, Cathy Cotter, and Sandy Cyr.

RCMP Constable John Kennedy reading to students for National Child's Day.

PARL Chief Librarian Eric Stackhouse receives a plaque of appreciation for his support of the *Adopt A Library Literacy Program* from its founder, Constable John Kennedy.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

The School of Library and Information Studies was pleased to welcome Bernard Dumouchel, Director General, Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) National Research Council Canada. Mr. Dumouchel delivered a public lecture entitled *Bridging the Information Gap* on November 21, 2002. In his lecture, Mr. Dumouchel provided an overview of CISTI's role in support of the Canadian Innovation System through provision of scientific, technical and medical information. Mr. Dumouchel discussed how CISTI's library and publishing services are influenced by the digital environment, partnerships and collaborations, and the

evolving demands of clients.

SLIS student Heather Berringer reports: The kick-off reception for the CLA Student Chapter's Professional Partnering initiative was held Thursday, November 14 at the Dalhousie Arts Centre. With nearly 40 attendees, including CLA Vice President Madeleine Lefebvre, the reception provided an opportunity for students and professionals involved in the program to meet and mingle, and proved a great success.

Professional Partnering evolved from the belief that many students had significant concerns about making the transition between school and their first "real job". They were unsure how to make professional contacts, hesitant about their résumés and cover letters, and very nervous about upcoming job interviews. The program matches participating students with a library professional able to provide career guidance. So far 19 matches have been made through the program.

Additional information about the program and how to get involved is available at the CLA Student Chapter Web site: http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis/PeopleGroups/Cla-slis/.

Pictured left to right are Professional Partnering participants Jamie Jarrett, Madeleine Lefebvre, Heather Berringer, Julia Stewart, Melissa Schwartz and Michael Colborne.

HOT TIPS & UPDATES

A PROVINCIAL SNAPSHOT OF NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY USERS

In the summer of 2002, the nine Regional Libraries in Nova Scotia conducted a survey to provide a description of Nova Scotia library users; determine library users' assessment of the contribution made to communities by public libraries; and to assess library users' satisfaction with services provided.

Several themes emerged from the data collected through the 2374 returned surveys.

- Libraries are important community resources.
- Libraries provide access to information technology.
- Libraries provide access to information for people who cannot read conventional print.
- Libraries enhance access to information for families with lower household incomes.

- **Libraries support people who are seeking employment.**

- **Library users are very satisfied with the services provided by their public libraries.**

Library users who responded to the Summer 2002 user survey highly value their public libraries and are very satisfied with the services they provide. The most common reasons that library users visit the library are to borrow materials for pleasure, to seek information to support a hobby or personal interest, to support schoolwork or to use a computer. Specific services used most often by survey respondents include videos, Internet access, large print books, and information about community activities, events and community history. It is important to note that computers for Internet access and word processing, job search information and large print books are used more by people with incomes less than $30,000 per year, suggesting that public libraries are helping to ensure equal access to technology and information.

In general, respondents consider it important for public libraries to provide the range of services currently offered, especially access to large print books, talking books and books on tape, as well as access to the Internet. Over half of the survey respondents indicated that they use the library to support their work, business or school-related activities.

Respondents clearly view the library as an important part of their community. The library is seen as a community asset that provides intellectual stimulation, entertainment, and social contact. Free access to a variety of materials for all members of the public is seen as a major benefit of the library. The following are examples of comments about this issue given by survey respondents:

"I could not imagine living in a place where there was not a library . . .libraries link people and communities together." (Respondent from Western Counties Region)

"Living in a rural area is sometimes isolating. Having the services that the library provides helps to lessen the isolation." (Respondent from Halifax Region)

"A library is a vital part of a small town." (Respondent from Annapolis Valley Region)

"Having a library as part of the community is very important. We checked this out before moving here four years ago." (Respondent from South Shore Region)

"It allows us to break from the isolation we sometimes feel living in remote rural C.B. and provides access to important resources." (Respondent from Cape Breton Region).

The full text of the survey analysis can be found at http://www.library.ns.ca.

BUILDING ANOTHER BRIDGE: EQUAL ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS - TELECONFERENCE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2002

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) hosted the local site viewing, via satellite, of the live broadcast from College of DuPage, Distance Learning Program, Illinois, entitled *Building Another Bridge: Equal Access to Technology for Special Populations*, Friday, November 15, 2002. Members of the Nova Scotia library community and others interested in adaptive technology attended Friday's session.

During the workshop, presenter Daneen Richardson, Reference Librarian at the Graham Hospital School of Nursing in Canton, Illinois, gave strategies and approaches for meeting the information needs of special populations. Various ideas for activities were given by librarians interviewed during the session, including a teen night, where youth with special needs are encouraged to come to the library and participate in programs created for them. Technologies referred to during the session included hardware elements such as large key

keyboards and track ball mouse and software such as *Read & Write Gold*, *Zoom Text*, *Dragon* demonstrated by Assistive Technologies Inc. - http://www.assistivetechnologies.com/index.htm, to name a few. Also discussed were guidelines and standards to ensure accessibility of web sites, including the internationally accepted *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines* developed by the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative www.w3.org/WAI/Resources/#gl.

Following the broadcast Peter Webster, Head, Information Systems, Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University, gave a demo of *TextAloud MP3* www.textaloud.com/, *Readplease* www.readplease.com/ and the CNIB's *Daisy LP Player* www.cnib.ca/library/general_information/daisy.htm. He gave a brief tour of *Audible.com*, referring to the site as the "Amazon.com of audio books" and mentioned the *JAWS* http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_products/software_jaws.asp screen reading application. Following the demonstrations, attendees were given the opportunity to try out the software themselves.

CANADIAN INITIATIVE ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES OPEN MEETING

Bernadette Kennedy, Access to NS Library Resources, Librarian, attended the Interoperability and Digital Preservation Issues Open Meeting held November 1, 2002, at the Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City. The day long meeting was hosted by the Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries (CIDL) and focused on the discussion and development of national strategies to further the inter-change of information and long-term access to digital resources. Those attending included representatives from over 40 institutions from across the country.

Issues discussed during the meeting included: existing and emerging digitization standards, levels of interoperability ranging from simple linking to harvesting records to a central database, funding strategies, preservation issues, the National Library of Canada's E-Theses program, as well as national archiving initiatives underway in Europe and the USA, and the need for Canada to develop a national digital archive plan.

The meeting resulted in several suggestions towards a national strategy. These included: increasing the scope of Canada's digital collections by extending CIDL's membership to include heritage, museum and scientific agencies, and the private sector; having CIDL take the lead in developing a national digital archiving strategy; and exploring the potential for the development of shared web tools. In addition, it was suggested that the NLC keep abreast of policy development in government departments that could impact access to digital collections.

The meeting, while designed primarily to address issues related to digitization on a national scale, also gave attendees the chance to talk with fellow professionals from across Canada about digitization. This resulted in increased awareness of digital activities across the country and possibly opening the door to further co-operation and collaboration amongst CIDL members.

A detailed report of the Open Meeting will be posted on the CIDL web site at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cidl/cidle.html.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The Alzheimer Society of NS held its 14th annual fall conference at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth on November 7, 2002. One of the sessions was called *Alzheimer Disease Information and Support: Increasing access across Nova Scotia*. The panelists included Ann Roman, Nova Scotia Community College; Denise Hubley, Infoline Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of NS; and Michael Colborne, NS Provincial Library. Ann spoke about the partnership recently launched with the Society and described how the network of Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) campuses work together to make resources available to students and to members of the community. The Society has donated to several NSCC campuses the same collection of books that was donated to the Regional Libraries earlier this year. The partnership with Regional Libraries was announced at the 2001 conference. Michael spoke about the success of the partnership so far. Since the books were placed in Regional Libraries earlier this year, they have circulated almost 500 times. The Society has also benefited from increased promotion by libraries, PARL's Health Room, for example, or WCRL's new online Alzheimer's Resource List.

Regional Libraries have gained credibility as providers of consumer health information as a result of the partnership with the Society. The Society has promoted libraries as valuable information resources both to its members and to other health charities. Denise Hubley introduced the Society's new Infoline, and toll-free information service, which operates from the Society's office and is staffed by volunteers.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS WORKSHOP - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) hosted an Essential Skills Workshop on Tuesday, November 18. Donna Palmer, HRDC, has been championing several new HRDC programs with related web sites that promote workplace skills and learning. The three skills, numeracy, document reading, and oral communication skills, are considered *Essential Skills*. With the federal government's concern over future employability and meeting workplace requirements, and with the publication of its recent report, *Knowledge Matters*, HRDC has reacted by providing new online resources, which can help adult educators deliver training.

Some of the 10 audience members were instructors delivering numeracy, document reading, and oral communication skills to companies with employees whose skills need upgrading. Other attendees were looking for fresh material with which to challenge their adult students. For the most part, the material at the *Essential Skills* website http://Www15.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca is very flexible. Students can learn on their own or with the aid of an instructor. Employers can look at job descriptions and levels of job complexity and based on this criteria, compose job ads or new job descriptions. It is also possible for employees to compare job profiles and use the material to create their own portfolio - a tool commonly used at colleges and by employers to help assess the level of job readiness. Even resume writing and career planning could be ways of utilizing the contents of this database. The *Essential Skills* website lists approximately. 170 basic job profiles. Most of the jobs require some formal education beyond high school, or high school completion.

Test of Workplace Essential Skills (TOWES) is a new test of workplace essential skills, which has been developed in Canada. The TOWES project has a bank of test items, which collectively form an assessment tool to measure essential skills in workplace settings. Visit the TOWES website at http://www.towes.com/whatis.asp to learn more.

The final web site demonstrated was *Blueprint for Life/Work Designs* at http://www.blueprint4life.ca/, which will help make career development intentional for more people. For example, you can determine individual client/ student competencies and develop plans to address gaps.

For more information on these HRDC website, contact Donna Palmer at dmpalmer@axion.net.

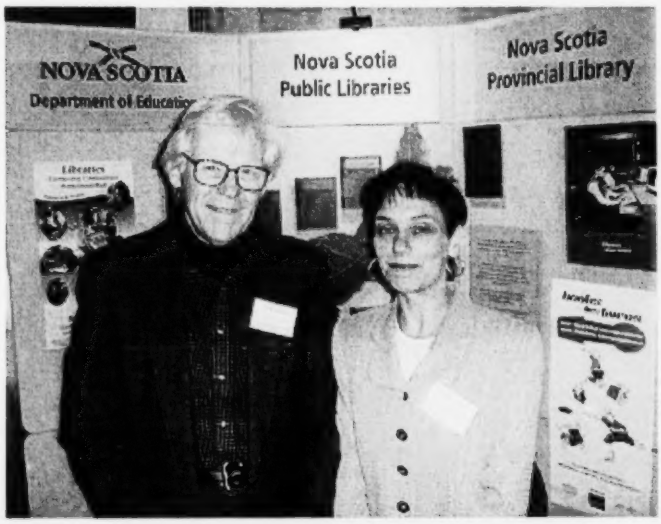
WARM UP TO LEGAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP

On November 26, 2002, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library hosted the half-day session *Warm Up to Legal Research!* sponsored by the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services (CASLIS), Atlantic Region. The presenters gave tips and lists of print and online resources to use in helping clients answer legal questions, especially in regards to statutes. The panel of experienced law librarians included Cyndi Murphy, Director of Research and Library Services with law firm Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales; Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian at the Nova Scotia Legislative Library; Jill Plummer, Librarian with the law firm Patterson Palmer Hunt Murphy; and Mark Lewis, Reference Librarian at the Sir James Dunn Law Library. For more information and to help clients understand and track recent legislation, participants were advised to check out the Nova Scotia Legislature site at http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/ and in particular the link *House Business*.

Approximately 20 library staff attended this very well prepared session, and came away with many useful tips on conducting a good legal reference interview, as well as some useful websites and handouts. To find out about upcoming CASLIS events, visit their website at http://www.caslisatlantic.ca/

UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE (UNSM)

The annual conference of the UNSM provides an excellent opportunity to promote public libraries to municipal councillors. At this year's conference, held at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax, November 6-8, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) organized a booth in the trade show area. Promotional materials from the Regional Libraries were distributed, and an Internet connection allowed people visiting the booth to see the virtual resources from their local area. Staff members from NSPL and the Regional Libraries and volunteers from LBANS spent time in the booth. The general consensus at the end of the conference was that this was worth doing on an annual basis. NSPL has agreed to organize a booth at future UNSM conferences.



LBANS member Alan Wilson and PARL's Peggy Hiscock volunteered at NSPL's booth during the annual UNSM Conference.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries. They were answered using resources found on the Internet.

Q. Would like plans for building a wooden clock and wooden mechanisms.

A. At the *Canadian Home Workshop Magazine Article Index* search page at http://www.canadianhomeworkshop.com/articles.html enter *clock* as a keyword. This locates quite a few clock woodworking projects with the month, year and page where they appeared in *Canadian Home Workshop* magazine. You can also search the project plans from *Woodworker's Journal* and *Today's Woodworker Magazine* at http://www.woodworkersjournal.com/wwjstore2/webpage3.cfm?DID=1. Again enter *clock* in the search box and this finds 46 plans which you can browse through. Another useful site is *Woodworker's Website Association PlanSearch* at http://www.woodworking2.org/PlanSearch/search.htm. Enter *clock* in the keyword search to locate 18 plans. Some are free including *Wooden Clock 1* and *Wooden Clock 2* on Brian Law's *Woodenclocks* site http://www.woodenclocks.co.uk/. These have plans for wooden mechanisms.

Q. Would like names and addresses of Canadian companies which distribute or manufacture therapeutic magnetic products.

A. Here are three databases which are useful for answering this question:

At the *Canadian Company Capabilities* database at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_coinf/ccc/engdoc/homepage.html use the search words *magnetic therapy* to locate companies.

At the *Canadian Exporters Catalogue* search page at http://www.worldexport.com/search/default.asp?Param=English select *Safety, Medical and Health-Care Products* in the Section field and in the Key Word field enter *magnetic*.

At the *Canadian Trade-marks Database* search page at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/cgi-bin/sc_consu/trade-marks/search_e.pl enter the phrase *magnetic therapy* and select the *Wares and Services (11)* field to search in.

LINKed

This month's Linked column takes a look at some of the best sites for information on holidays and celebrations around the world. These sites also provide stories, crafts, activities, clip art and recipes to help celebrate them.

***Kids Domain: Holidays* at http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/ is a Canadian site with a list of links to well selected sites for each holiday. There is information on the history of the holiday as well as crafts, stories, activities, free clip art and links to other sites. This is an attractive and well organized site.**

At the *Food Network: Holidays and Gatherings* page at http://www.foodtv.com/holidays/ho-g1/ scroll down to the *Choose an Occasion* section for recipes for different holidays and other occasions.

Kathy Schrock's award winning *Guide for Educators*, which is now on the *DiscoverySchool.com* web site, has a *Holidays & Celebrations* section at http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/holidays.html. There are links here to sites with information on a wide variety of holidays as well as holiday calendars, clipart and lesson plans.

***The Idea Box* http://www.theideabox.com/ is a source of early childhood education and activity resources. It has a *Seasonal* section at http://www.theideabox.com/ideas.nsf/seasonal where there are links to activities, crafts, games, projects, recipes and songs for each holiday and celebration. The site is owned and operated by Group 23 Solutions.**

Through the *Year Holidays and Celebrations* is produced by NOBLE: North of Boston Library Exchange and can be found at http://www.noblenet.org/year/ on their web site. Informative sites on holidays and celebrations are arranged by month.

***Google Web Directory: Holidays* at http://directory.google.com/Top/Society/Holidays/ and *Yahoo! Directory: Holidays and Observances* at http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Holidays_and_Observances/ are good sources of links to holiday sites.**

Web sites which were featured in previous Linked columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm. If you

have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two recent additions to the professional collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please submit requests via email to Dale MacMillan at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca

Benton Foundation and Libraries for the Future (Organization) - *Local places, global connections: libraries in the digital age.* Washington, D.C.; Benton Foundation: New York: Libraries for the Future, c1997. [Call #: PROF 025 .524 Loc]

***Local Places, Global Connections* is a collaboration of the Benton Foundation and Libraries for the Future. Both groups share a belief in libraries as vital community institutions in the digital age. This book represents the culmination of a research project and is intended to serve as a guide for librarians, public officials, advocacy groups, community organizations and others who seek to ensure a central role for libraries in the digital age. It reflects a conviction that libraries are uniquely suited to make the benefits of new information technologies available to everyone, regardless of economic status or place of residence and to bring focus and organization to the often bewildering and ever-expanding universe of information. This book, which is divided into three sections, provides a description of the opportunities and challenges that new technology present to libraries, case studies showing how some libraries have adopted new technologies and additional resources for those interested in pursuing these issues in greater depth.**

McClure, Charles R. - *Statistics, measures and quality standards for assessing digital reference library services: guidelines and procedures.* New York: Information Institute of Syracuse University; Tallahassee, Fla: School of Information Studies, Florida State University, 2002. [Call #: PROF 025 .52 Sta]

This book is a product of the *Assessing Quality of Digital Reference Project.* It is essentially a manual which describes specific techniques, statistics, and measures that could be used to assess digital reference services. The overall purpose of this book is to improve the quality of digital reference services and to assist librarians to design and implement better digital reference services.

Credits go to:
Heather Berringer, student, SLIS

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